How to become a Dragon

- EPISODE 2 -

SILENCE

SO CAN YOU
JUST QUICKLY

TELL ME...

...YOUR NAME, AGE, THE SCHOOL YOU'RE ATTENDING, AND WHICH EXAM YOU'RE PREPPING FOR?

IS IT THE CSAT? TOEIC? KOREAN HISTORY?

MY NAME'S BARI. 1,218 YEARS OLD.

AND I'M AN IMOOGI.*

I'M PLANNING ON TAKING THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON EXAM, WHICH IS TO BE HELD IN TWO MONTHS' TIME.

*AN IMOOGI IS A MYTHOLOGICAL SERPENT-LIKE CREATURE

*AN IMOOGI IS A MYTHOLOGICAL SERPENT-LIKE CREATURE THAT MUST UNDERGO A THOUSAND YEARS OF TRAINING IN ORDER TO BECOME A DRAGON.

UM... SO IS THIS EXAM SOMETHING THAT'S HELD ONCE A YEAR?
OF COURSE NOT!
IT'S AN EXAM OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT IS HELD MAYBE ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS OR SO!

THEN I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT THE PERCENTILE RANK IS OR ANYTHING.
P-PERCENTILE RANK?
YOU KNOW, THINGS LIKE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TAKING THE EXAM AND WHAT THE RANKING LOOKS LIKE.

I'M SURE ALL OF THE IMOOGI IN JOSEON* WILL BE FLOCKING
JOSEON? IMOOGI?

TO TAKE THIS TEST.
THE COMPETITION WILL
BE FIERCE.

THIS GUY IS COMPLETELY
OFF HIS ROCKER.

*ONE OF THE HISTORICAL
NAMES FOR KOREA

SO IF
YOU'D LIKE ME
TO HELP YOU...

STUDENT RECORD
NAME: BAEK
AGE: 12/18
SCHOOL: ?
GRADE: ???
ADDRESS: ?? ~ ??
PHONE NUMBER: SIGH...
NOTES

...I'LL NEED
TO HAVE A BETTER

IDEA ABOUT WHAT THIS EXAM IS, EXACTLY.

WHA...

SNIFFLE

...WHAT?

WHY DO YOU HANG OUT WITH THESE GUYS WHEN YOU

CAN BARELY HOLD YOUR LIQUOR?

B-BECAUSE WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT...

AND STOP YOUR BLUBBERING! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU EVEN HAVE TEARS LEFT TO CRY!

I TURNED INTO

WELL, WHAT ELSE IS THERE FOR ME TO DO?

THIS RIDICULOUS CREATURE, AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...

HRGH!

UGH, YOU'RE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO LIVE LIKE THIS?
BLARGH
THUMP
THUMP

ALL RIGHT, SNAP OUT OF IT AND PAY ATTENTION.

COUGH

...HUH?

I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM CHEONRYONG.

NOW GO WAKE THOSE IDIOTS UP.

WOOZY

THIS MESSAGE IS FOR

WOOZY
THIS MESSAGE IS FOR ALL OF THE IMOOGI.
THESE GUYS DON'T WAKE UP EASILY WHEN THEY'RE DRUNK...
HEH
WHUP
GET UP, YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SNAKES!

SO WHAT'S
THIS MESSAGE
FROM CHEONRYONG?

THE DRAGON OF
NAKDONG RIVER IS DEAD.

MY DEAREST CHILDREN,

I HOPE YOU ARE ALL WELL.

I KNOW YOU MUST BE LIVING YOUR DAYS IN A CONSTANT STATE OF UNEASE, GRAPPLING WITH FEELINGS OF DEFEAT AND DESPAIR.

SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE RECEIVED NEWS OF THIS ALREADY, BUT THE DRAGON OF NAKDONG RIVER RECENTLY PASSED AWAY BECAUSE OF THE RIVER'S POLLUTED WATERS.

AND WITHOUT AN HEIR TO CONTINUE HIS LEGACY, THE SMALL CREATURES OF NAKDONG RIVER ARE BESET WITH WORRY.

THERES NO WAY WE CAN TAKE HIS PLACE. NOT WHEN THERE ARE SERPENTS OLDER THAN WE ARE-

THERE ARE NO EXISTING DRAGONS WHO CAN FILL THIS GAP, AND THE NEWER IMOOGI HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO UNTIL THEY FINISH THEIR THOUSAND-YEAR TRAINING.

THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED, BUT I'D LIKE TO GIVE ONE OF YOU SERPENTS WHO FAILED TO BECOME A DRAGON...
...ANOTHER CHANCE AT FULFILLING YOUR DESTINY AS A DRAGON...

REALLY?

I-IS THIS FOR REAL?

NO WAY... YOU SURE SHE'S NOT

THEY SAY EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY...

LYING?
OUR DAY IS COMING!
YOU GUYS...
HEY...
SO WHO WILL IT BE? WHO'S SHE GONNA PICK?
WHOA
BUT THIS IS CHEONRYONG'S SEAL ON THE MESSAGE!
ME, OF COURSE.
YOU CRAZY? IT'S GONNA BE ME!
SHUT YOUR TRAPS, ALL OF YOU!

HESSS

SHE SAID SHE'LL BE HOSTING AN EXAM TO MAKE THIS FAIR...

...SO QUIT YOUR DRINKING AND WAIT FOR THAT DAY TO COME, ALL RIGHT?

EEP

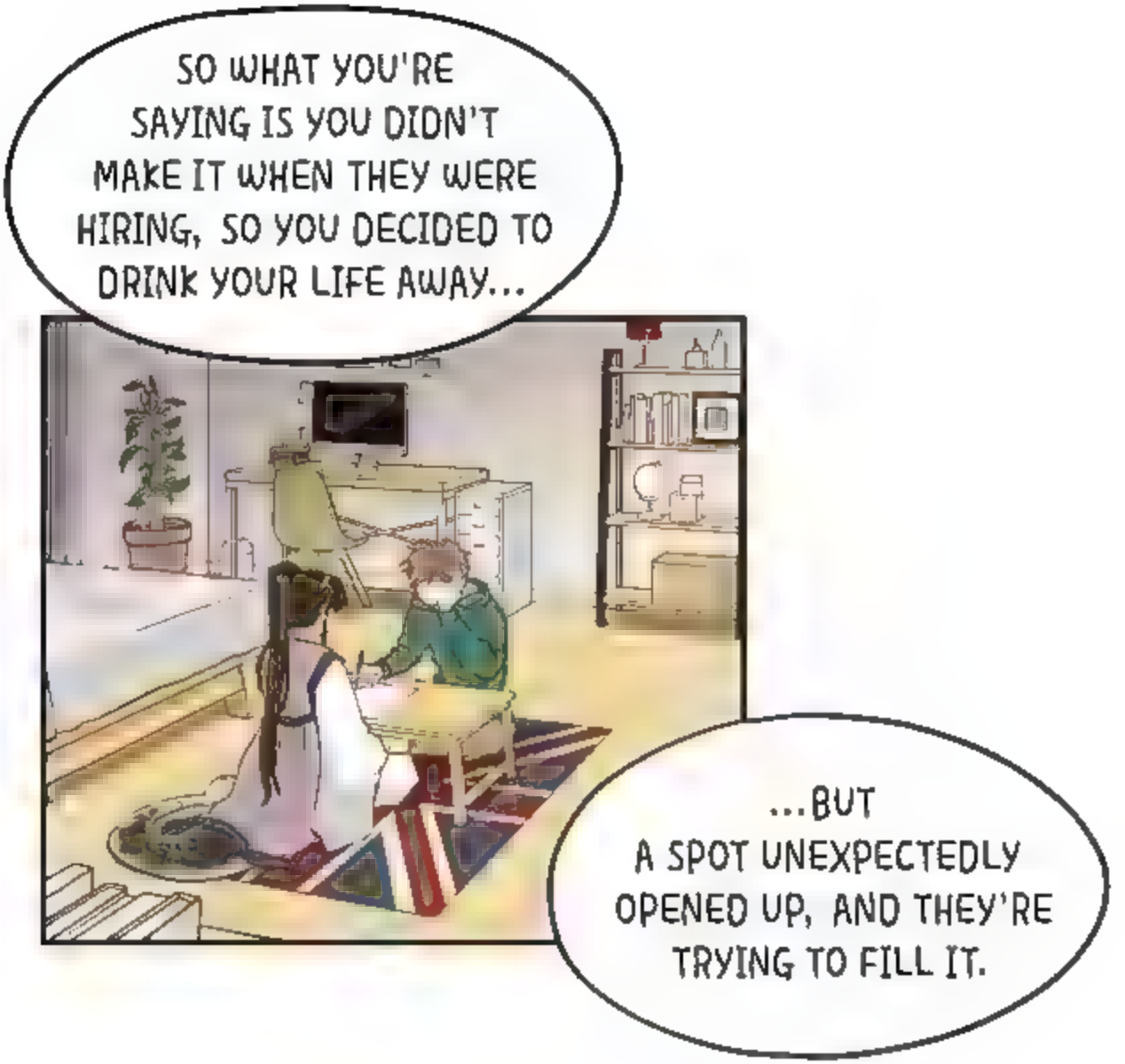
TREMBLE

GOT THAT?

YES, MA'AM...

THIS... THIS IS A CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!
THE NAKDONG RIVER IS MINE!

HMM...
OKAY...
SO YOU SERIOUSLY ARE TALKING ABOUT REAL DRAGONS, HUH?
AND IS THAT WHY YOU HAVE THAT THING STICKING OUT OF YOUR BUTT?


SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT WHEN THEY WERE HIRING, SO YOU DECIDED TO DRINK YOUR LIFE AWAY...
...BUT A SPOT UNEXPECTEDLY OPENED UP, AND THEY'RE TRYING TO FILL IT.

BUT WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT SUBJECT THIS TEST WILL BE ON.

I ASSUME YOU WOULDN'T NEED SOMETHING LIKE FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS TO BECOME... A DRAGON.

OF COURSE NOT!
...TO BRING FORTH THINGS LIKE RAIN, STORMS, LIGHTNING, AND HAIL!

WELL, AIN'T THAT TOO BAD!

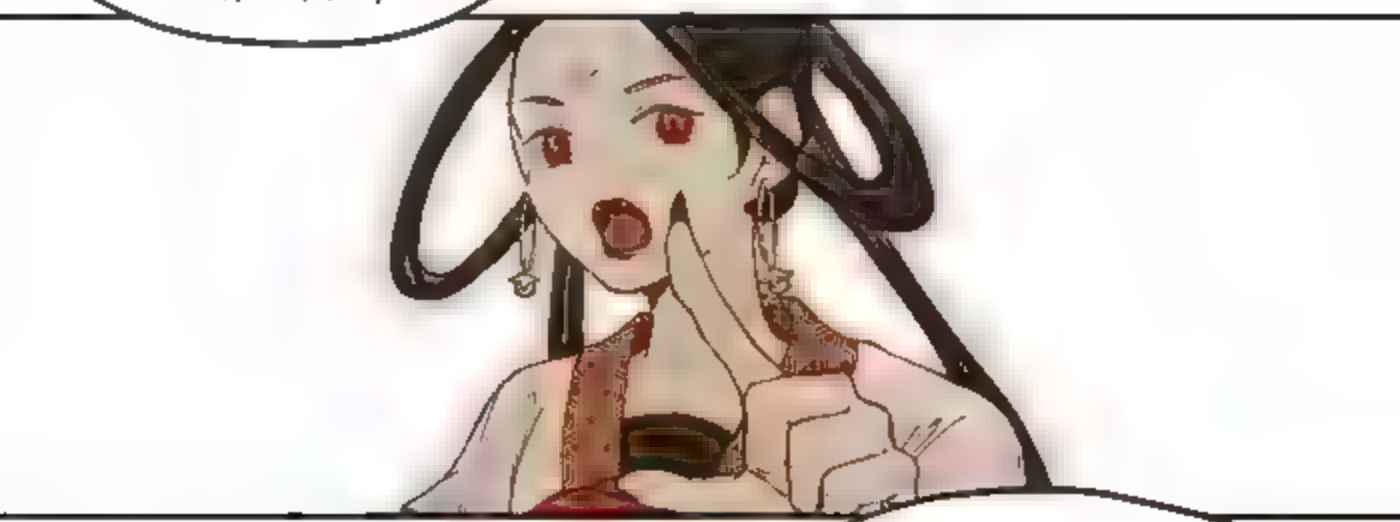
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN TEACH YOU!
HUMANS CAN'T EVEN PREDICT WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER IT'S GONNA RAIN OR NOT TOMORROW.
NO.

I ABSOLUTELY NEED A HUMAN FOR THIS EXAM.

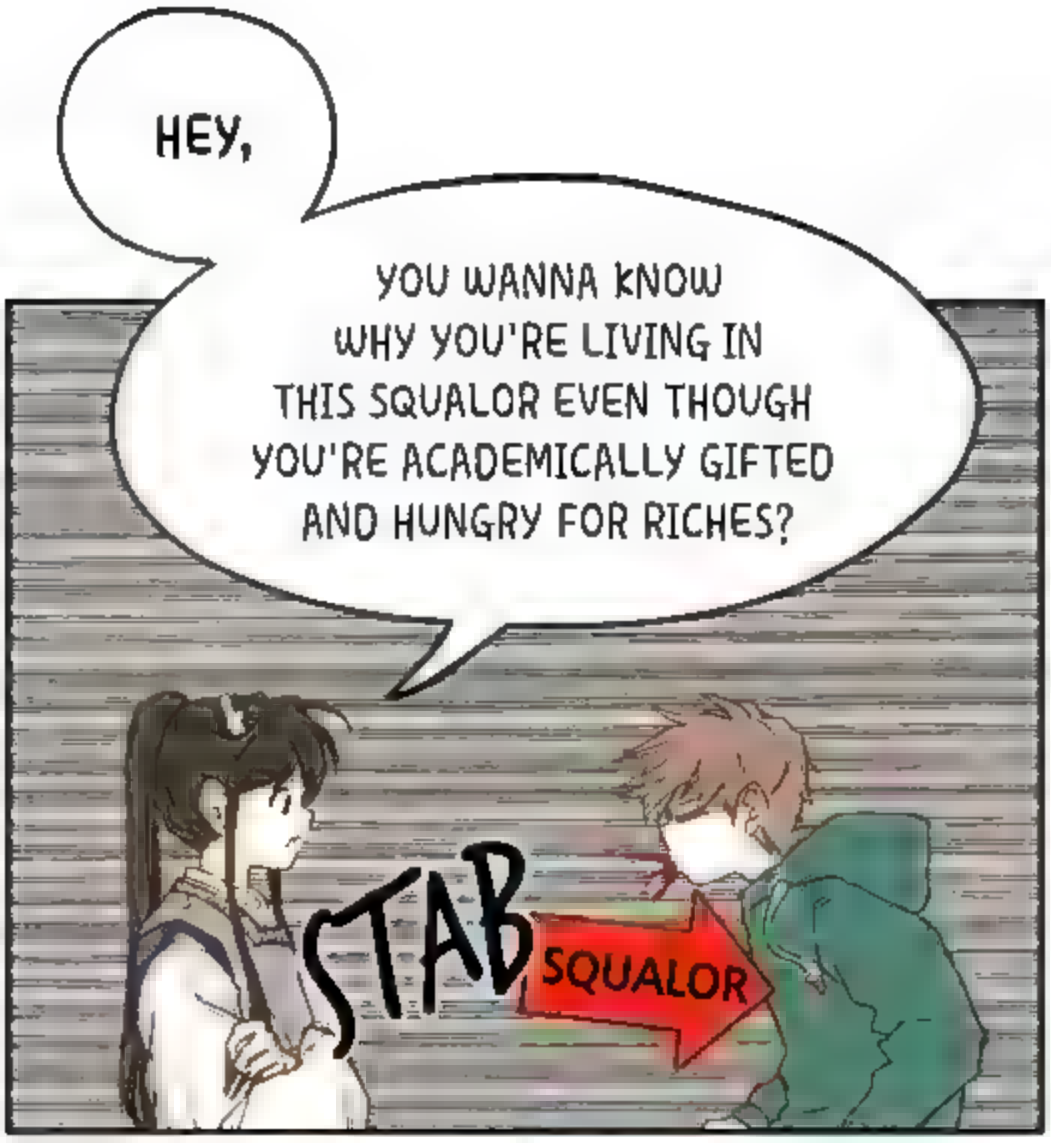
...YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO USE ME AS A SACRIFICIAL OFFERING OR ANYTHING, RIGHT?
WHAT?
EWW
NO ONE WANTS TO EAT YOU HUMANS,

YOU GUYS AREN'T ALL THAT TASTY.

I WAS TOLD THAT IN ORDER TO GET HELP FROM HUMANS,

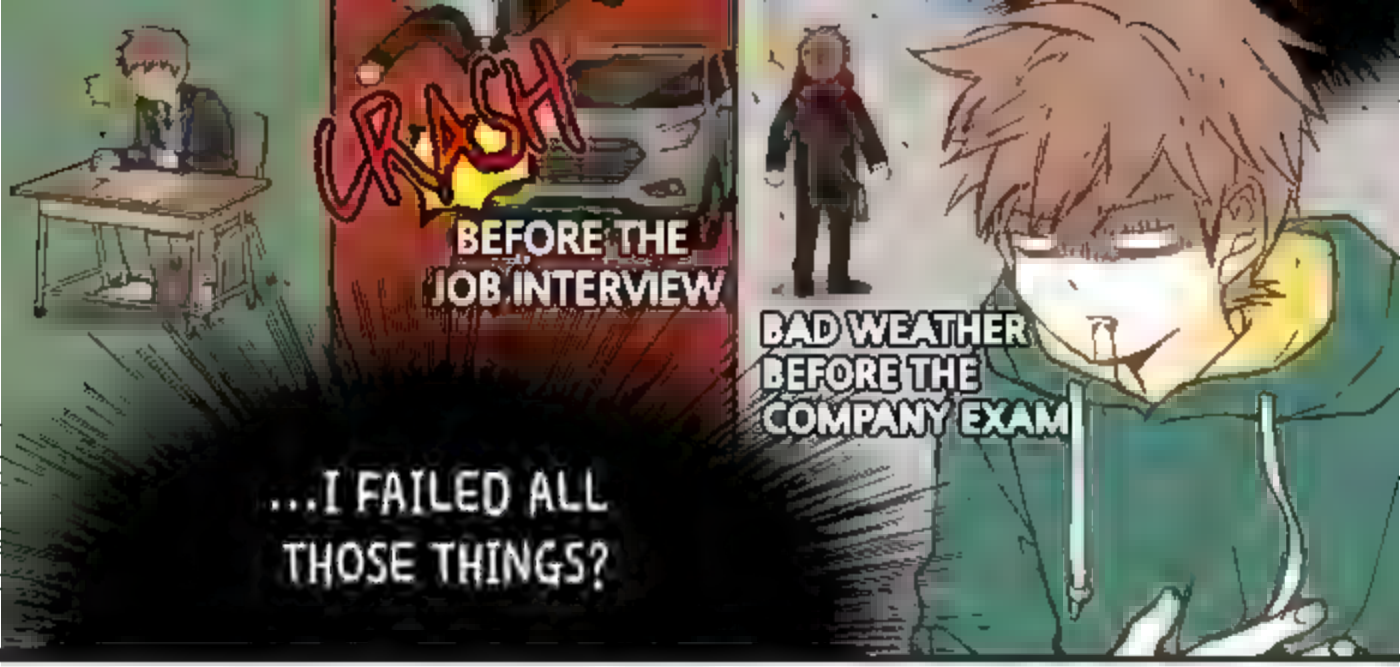


I NEED TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT.


HEY,
YOU WANNA KNOW WHY YOU'RE LIVING IN THIS SQUALOR EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ACADEMICALLY GIFTED AND HUNGRY FOR RICHES?
STAB
SQUALOR

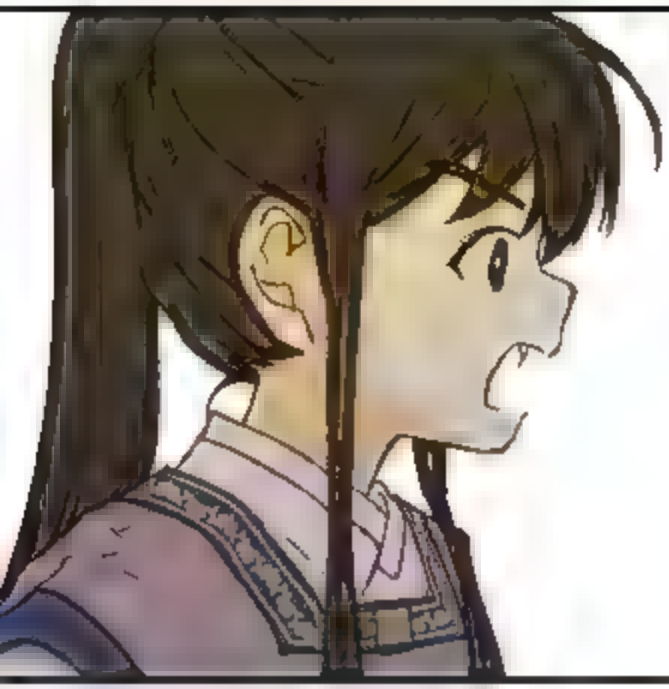
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S SINS.

AND YOU'LL NEVER GET WHAT YOU WANT IN LIFE BECAUSE YOU'RE BOUND UP IN THAT KARMA.


CRASH
BEFORE THE JOB INTERVIEW
BAD WEATHER BEFORE THE COMPANY EXAM
...I FAILED ALL THOSE THINGS?

WHEN YOU BECOME A DRAGON...

YOU'RE GIVEN A MAGICAL ORB.



WHEN I BECOME A DRAGON, YOUR KARMA WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE CLEANSED...

...AND
I'LL MAKE SURE THE REST
OF YOUR LIFE IS FILLED
WITH WEALTH AND
FAME.

W-WEALTH
AND FAME?

CLANG

CLANG

MONEY
...?

GRAINS SHALL OVERFLOW YOUR EVERY BARN!
COINS SHALL SPILL OUT FROM YOUR COFFERS!
AND YOU SHALL ALWAYS SCORE THE HIGHEST IN ALL YOUR EXAMS, WHETHER IT BE IN THE MILITARY ARTS OR LITERATURE!
AHEM

CRACK...

I WAS MOMENTARILY OUT OF MY MIND BECAUSE OF ALL THIS TALK ABOUT MONEY.
HEHEH
I CAN'T BELIEVE I TOOK THIS NUTCASE SERIOUSLY FOR A SEC...

BAD KARMA, HUH?

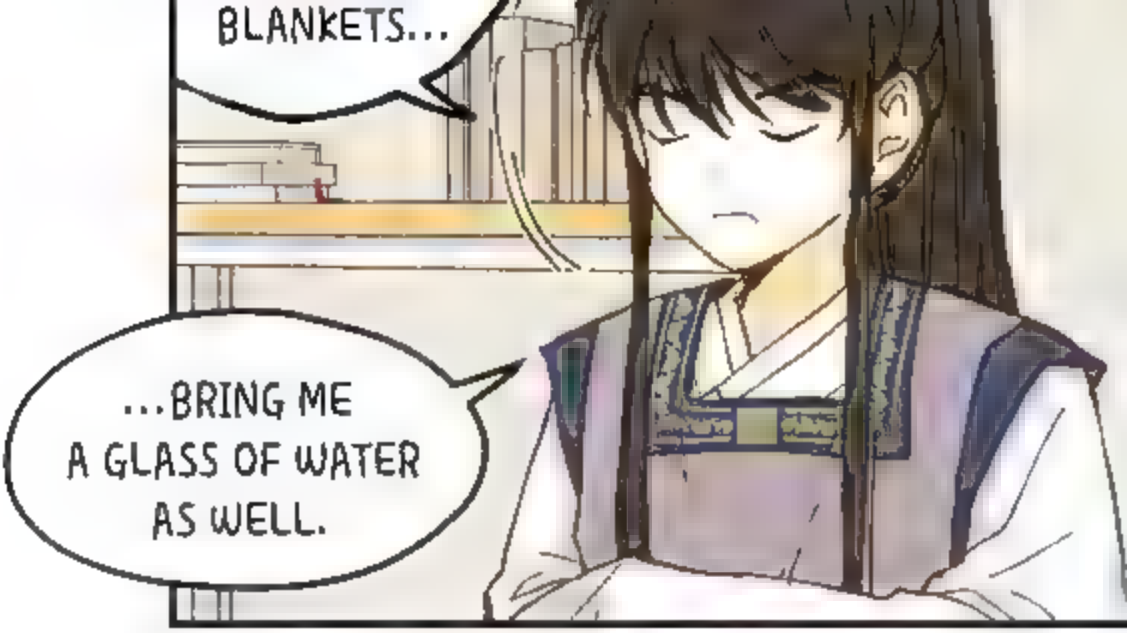
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, I'D HAVE GONE TO A SHAMAN TO DEAL WITH THAT.

ANYWAY,
IT'S GETTING LATE.
PREPARE
A BED FOR ME.

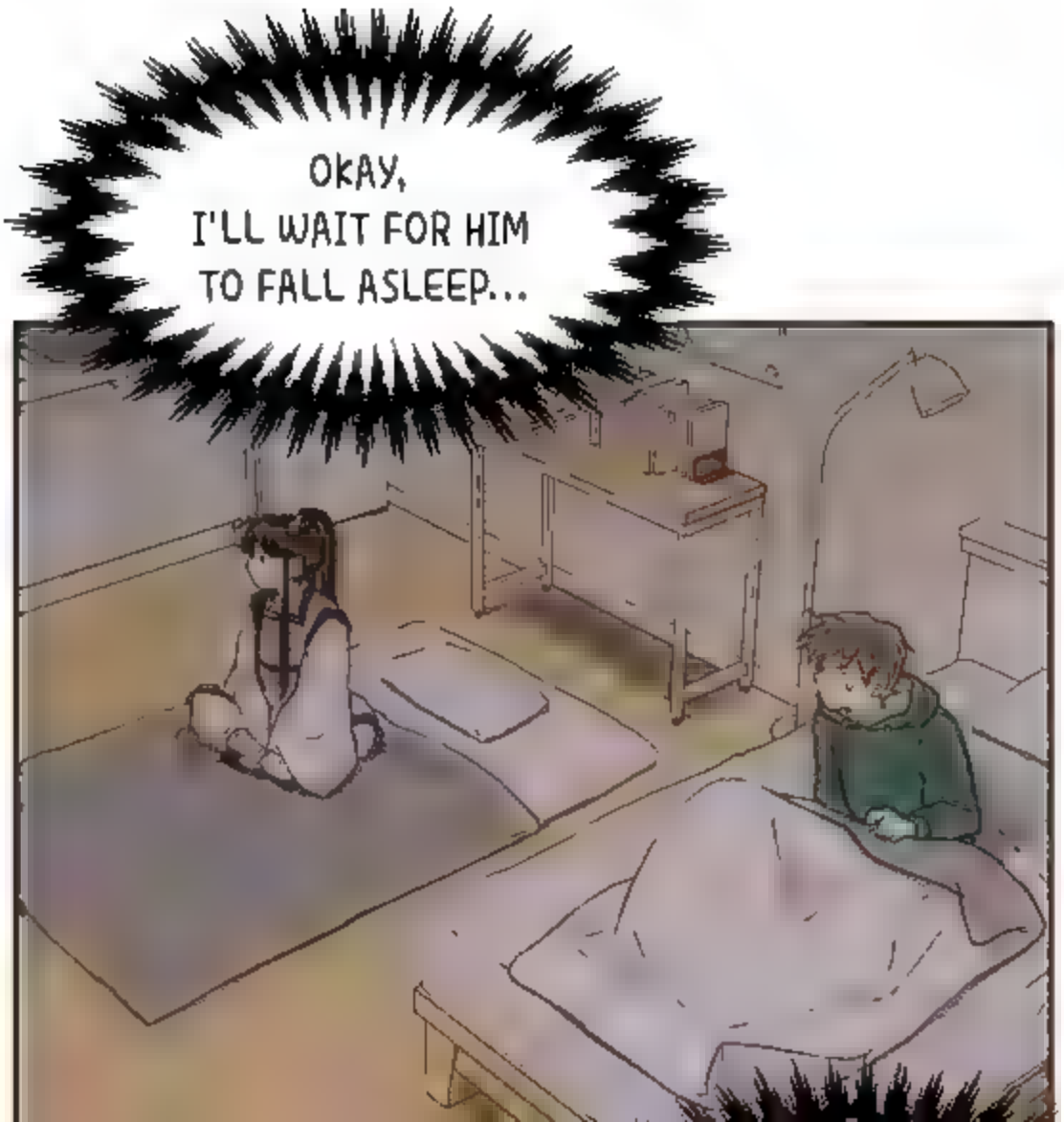
BED?
WHAT BED?
YAWN
I'M TIRED FROM MY LONG TRAVELS.
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SLEEP.

SLEEP?
HERE IN MY HOUSE?

OH, AND WHILE YOU'RE GETTING MY

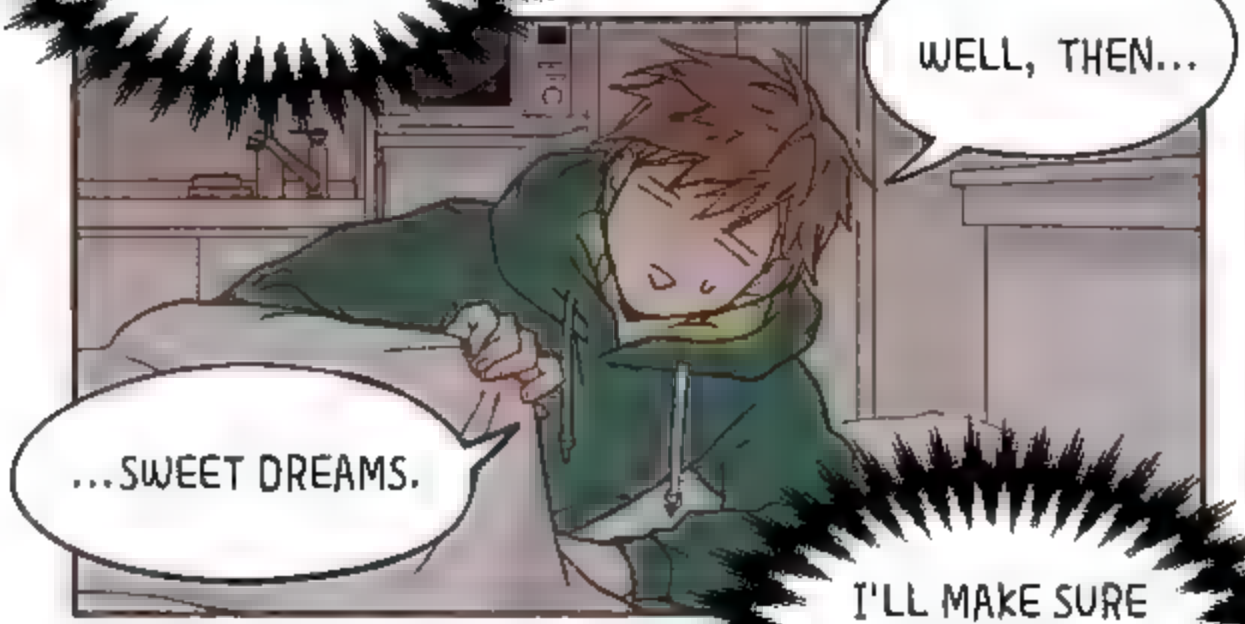

BLANKETS...
...BRING ME A GLASS OF WATER AS WELL.

ABOUT TO
LOSE IT
...!
...!
GRRR

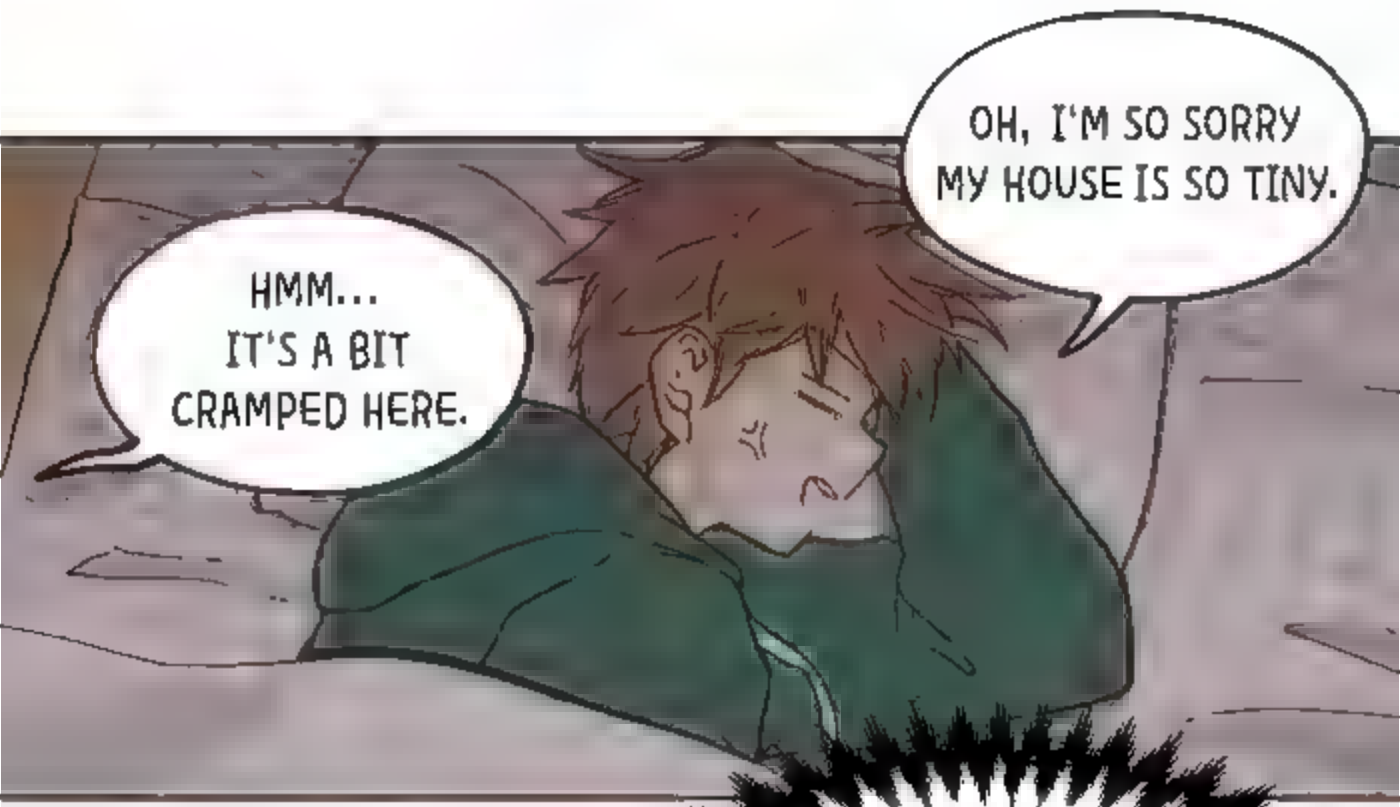

OKAY,
I'LL WAIT FOR HIM
TO FALL ASLEEP...

...BEFORE I CALL THE POLICE.

GO TO SLEEP, YOU FREAK.



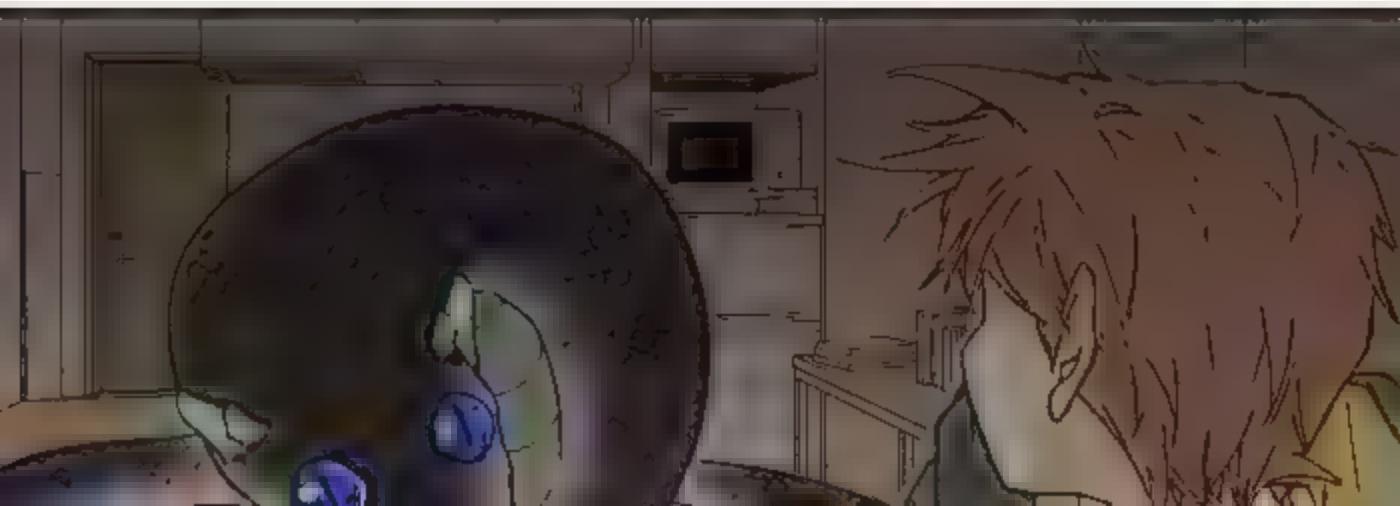
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU WAKE UP BEHIND BARS.



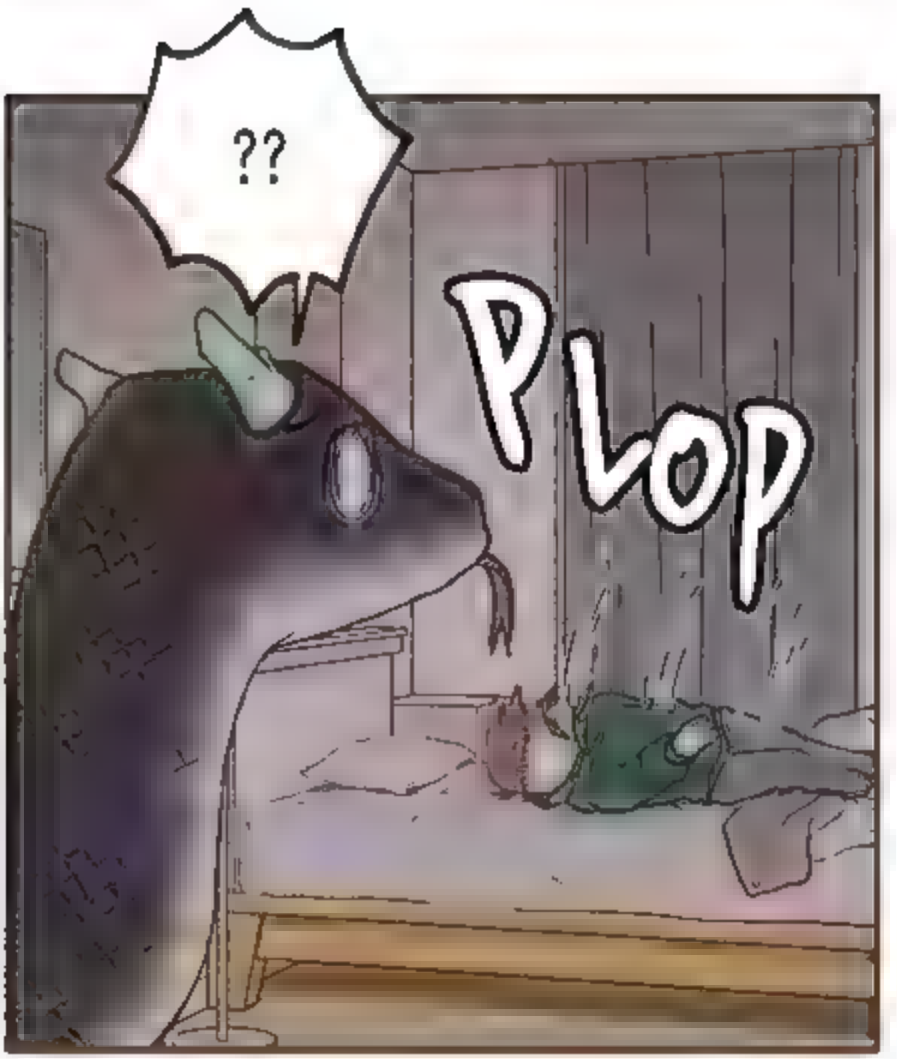
HE LITERALLY BROKE INTO MY HOUSE, AND HE HAS THE NERVE TO COMPLAIN?

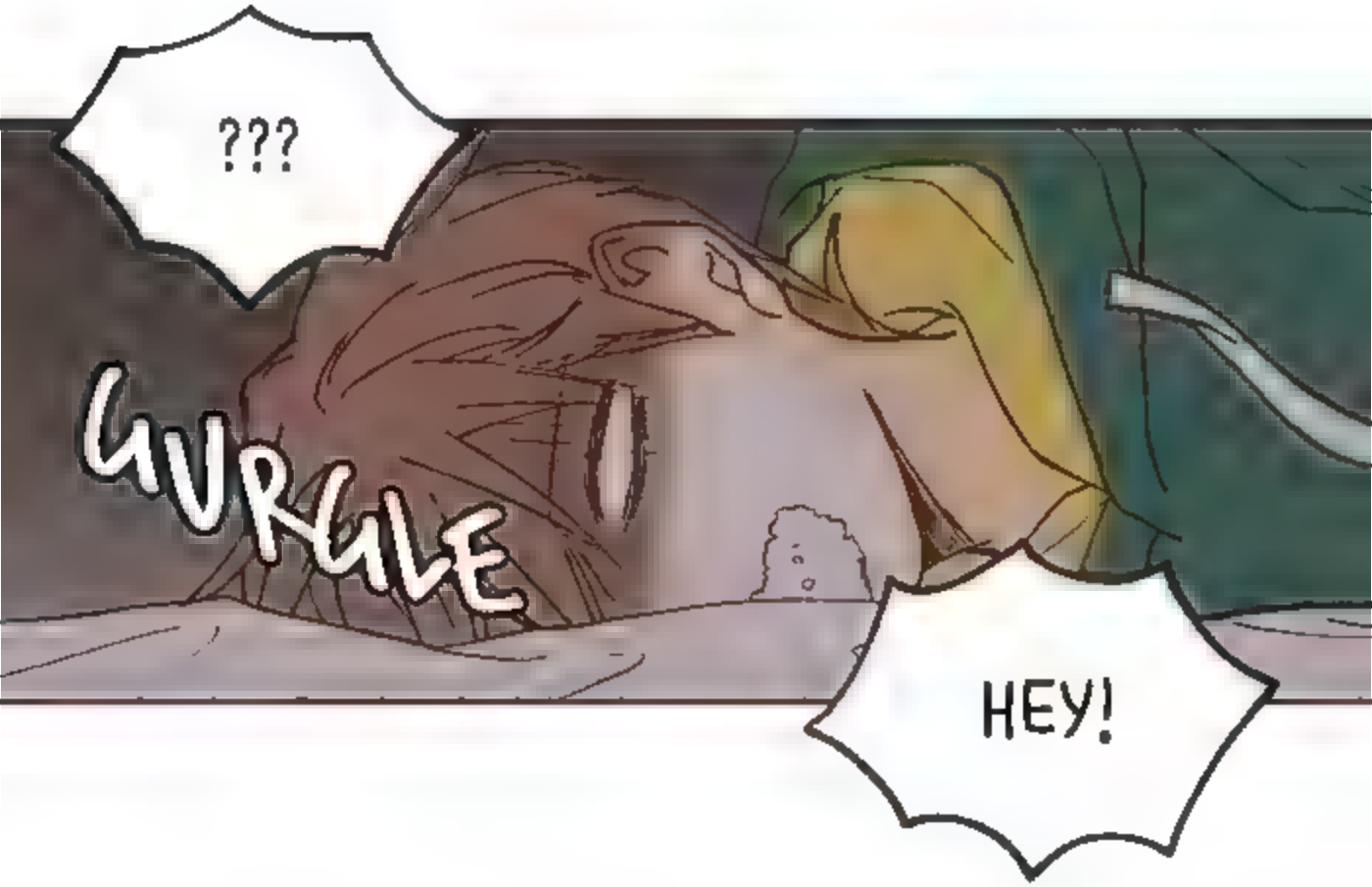
I'LL NEVER SETTLE EVEN IF THIS GOES TO COURT.
THIS IS SO UNCOMFORTABLE.
HOW DO YOU LIVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
BUDDY, I HAVE THE PERFECT DESTINATION IN MIND FOR YOU.
A NICE, ROOMY PRISON CELL!

HOW DO YOU EVEN SLEEP IN THIS TINY...
HEY!
BOLT
I NEED TO GET UP EARLY TOMORROW, OKAY?



HISSS
...IT'S SO CRAMPED.
HISSS


??
PLOP


???
GURGLE
HEY!

HEY!
W-WAKE UP!

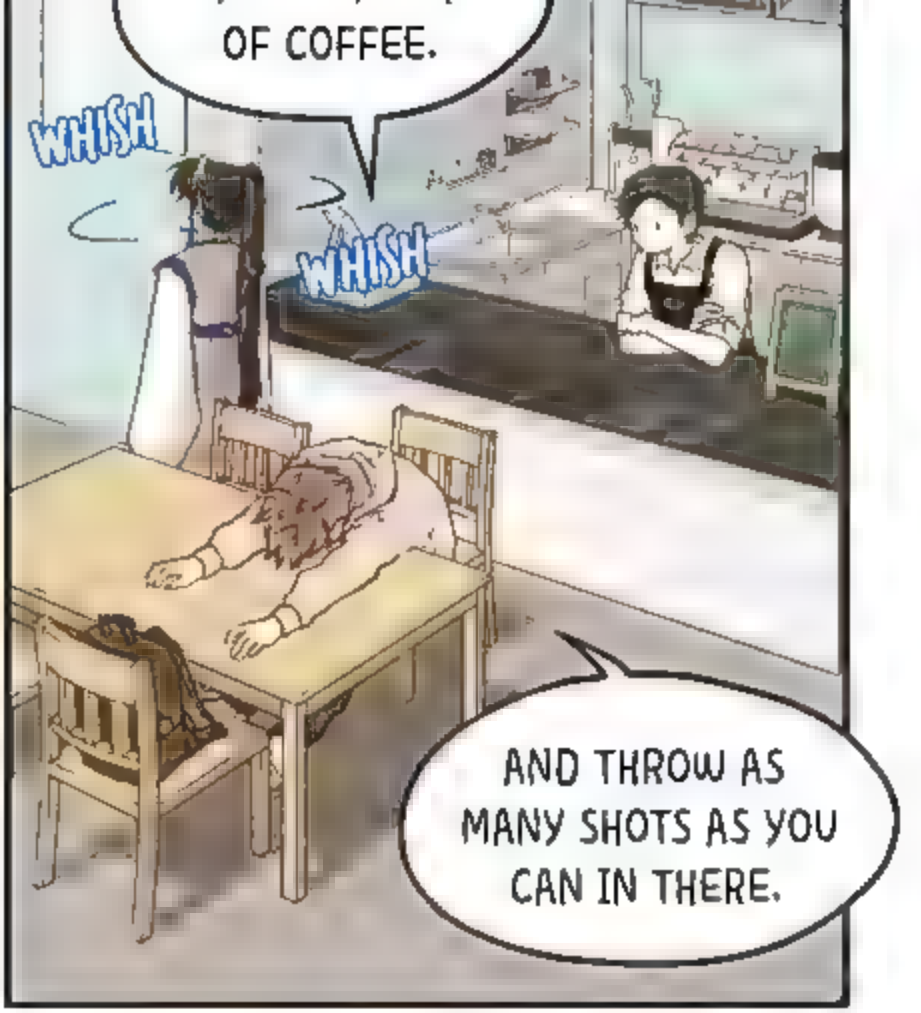
CHIRP
CHIRP

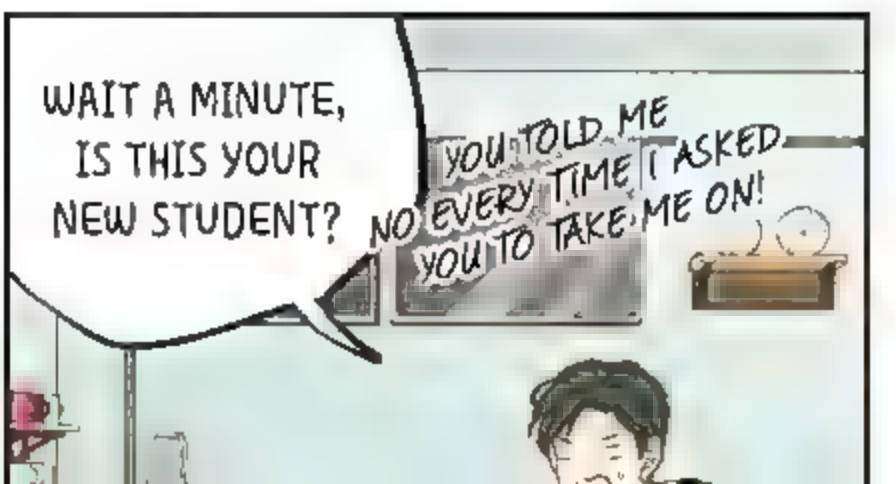
RING
WELCOME!

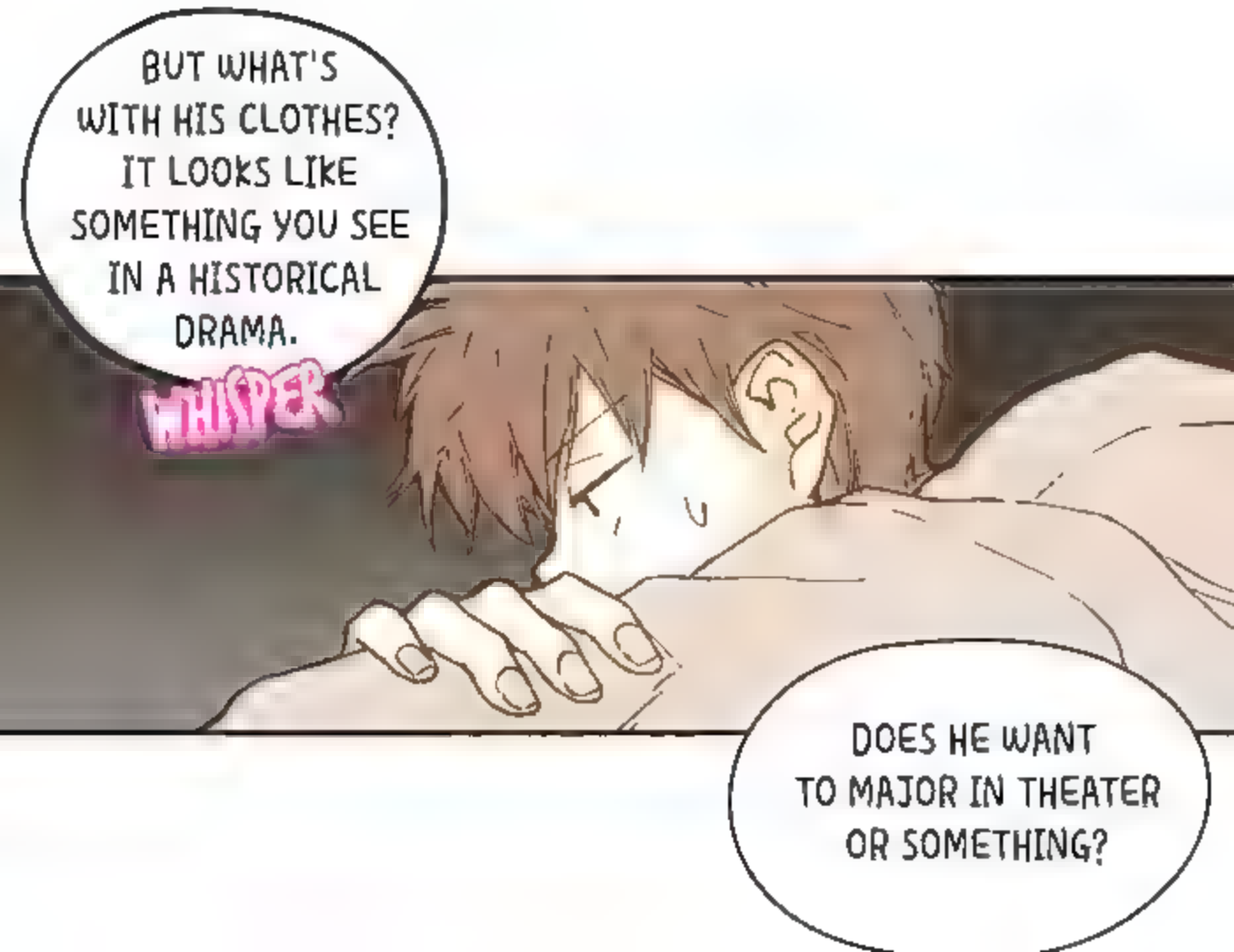
HUH?

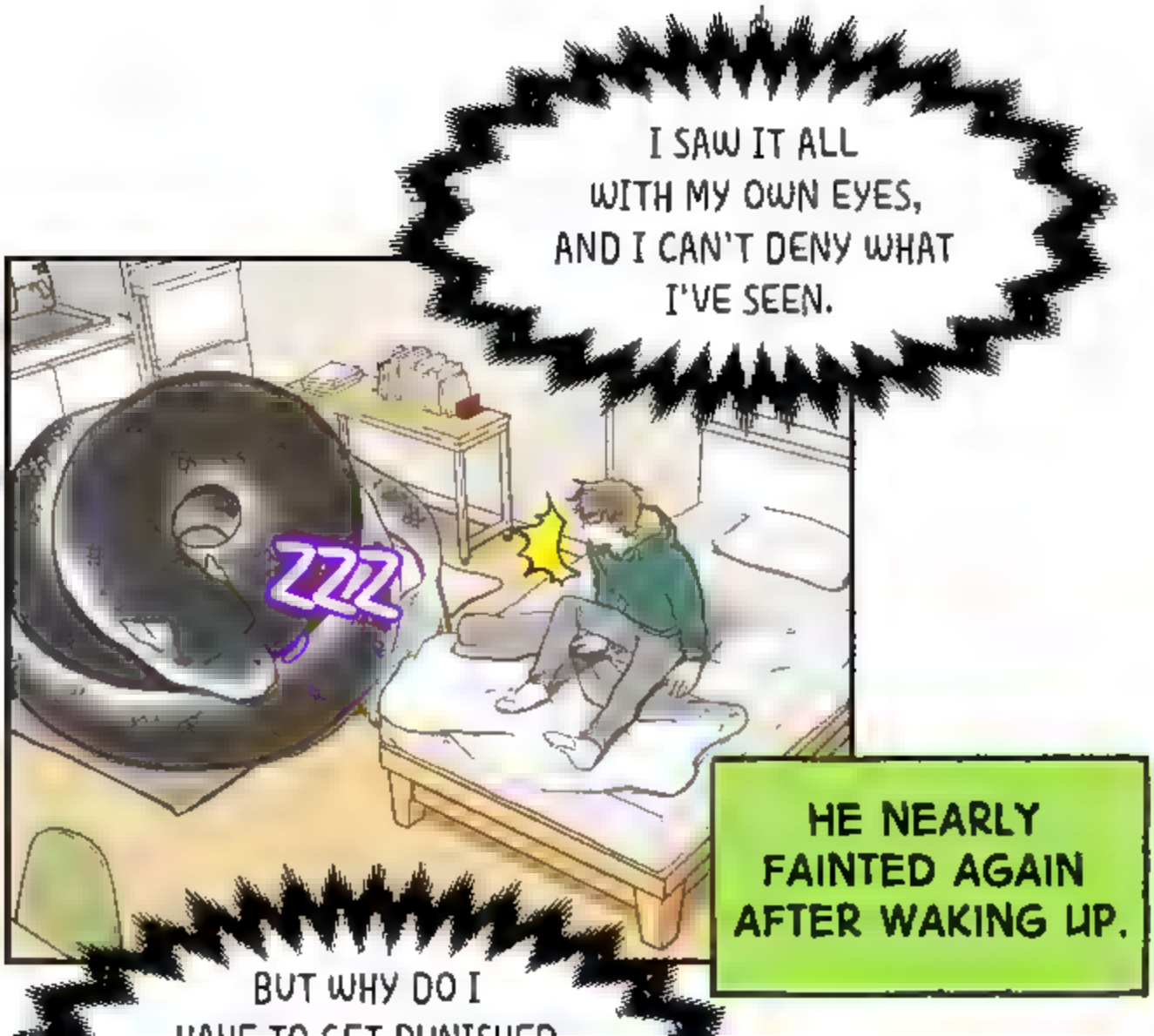
WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE DEATH WARMED OVER.
TIRED
AND WHO'S THAT BEHIND YOU?

I DON'T KNOW...
JUST GET ME A CUP


OF COFFEE.
WHISH
WHISH
AND THROW AS MANY SHOTS AS YOU CAN IN THERE.


WAIT A MINUTE, IS THIS YOUR NEW STUDENT?
NO EVERY TIME I ASKED YOU TO TAKE ME ON! YOU TOLD ME


BUT WHAT'S WITH HIS CLOTHES? IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING YOU SEE IN A HISTORICAL DRAMA.
WHISPER
DOES HE WANT TO MAJOR IN THEATER OR SOMETHING?


I SAW IT ALL WITH MY OWN EYES, AND I CAN'T DENY WHAT I'VE SEEN.
ZZZZ
HE NEARLY FAINTED AGAIN AFTER WAKING UP.
BUT WHY DO I

HAVE TO GET PUNISHED
FOR WHAT MY ANCESTORS DID?
COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT
WAS DEEMED UNLAWFUL
A LONG TIME AGO!

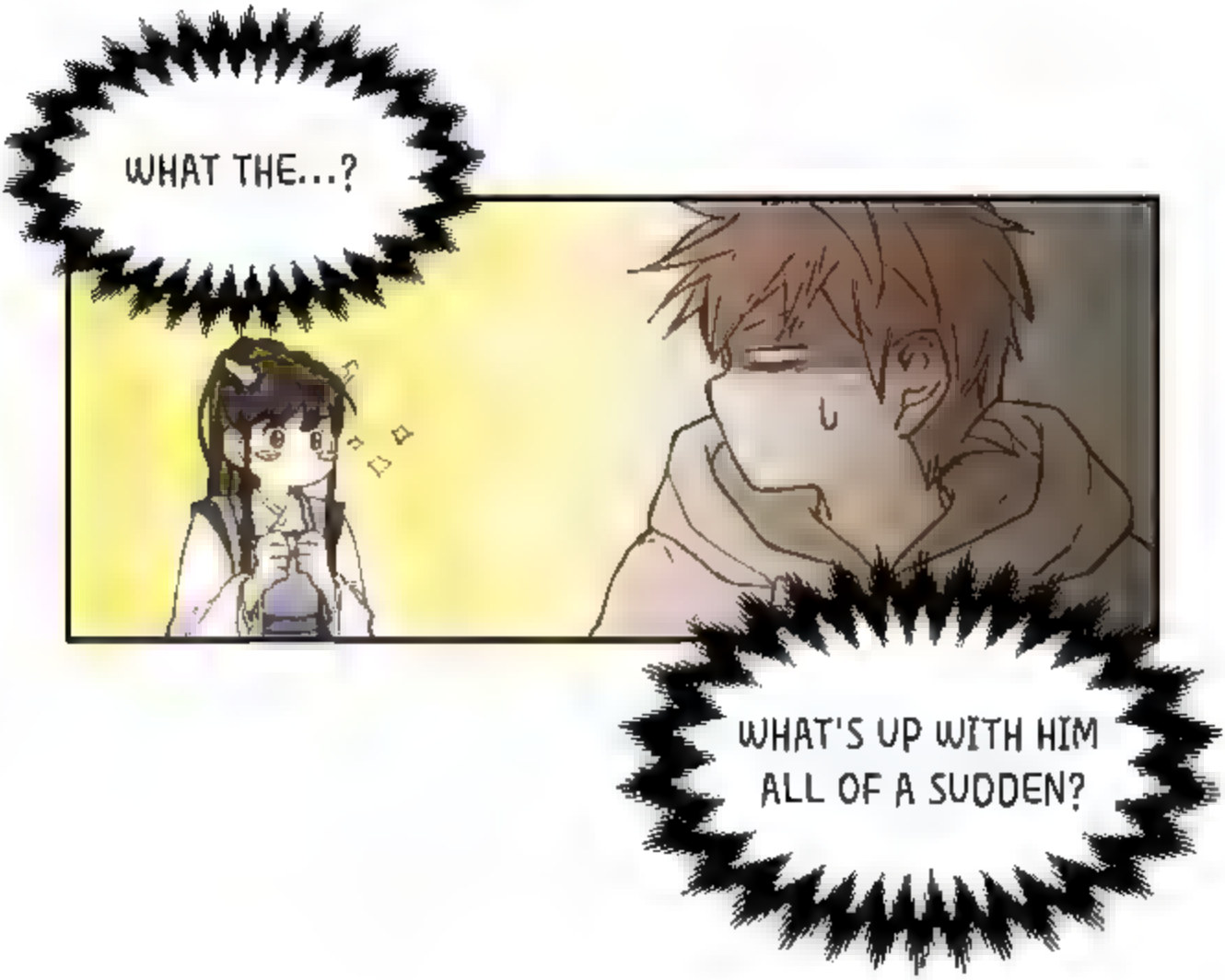
I WANT TO
TURN HIM IN...

...BUT HE'S STUCK TO ME LIKE GLUE.

THAT'S RIGHT!
HE'S SUPER FAMOUS FOR HELPING PEOPLE PASS EXAMS AND GET GOOD GRADES!
YOUNG IS A LEGEND IN THE A APARTMENT COMPLEX! TWO PEOPLE GOT PERFECT SCORES ON THE CSAT WITH HIS HELP.
THERE'S A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE WHO WANT HIM AS THEIR TUTOR!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TEST YOU NEED TO PASS, BUT YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PERSON.
BELIEVE IN HIM AND DO WHAT HE TELLS YOU TO DO, AND YOU'LL PASS YOUR EXAM, GUARANTEED!

DO EVERYTHING HE TELLS ME TO DO...
...AND I'LL PASS THE EXAM, GUARANTEED!


WHAT THE...?
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM ALL OF A SUDDEN?

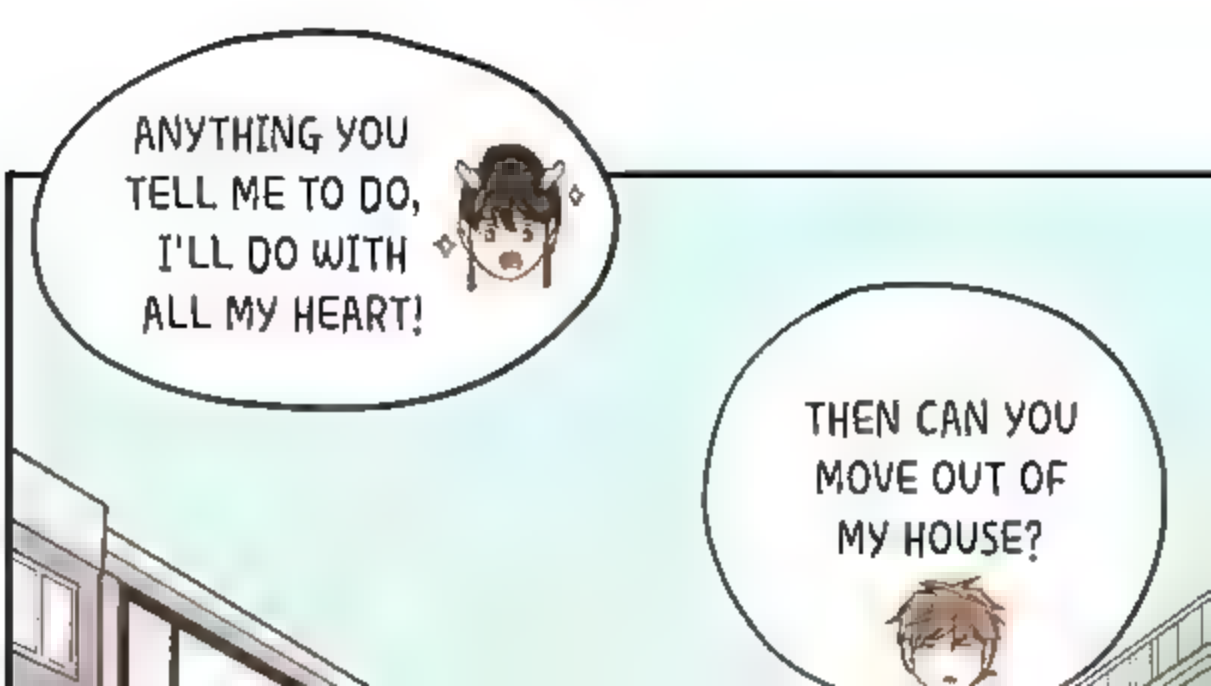
FROM NOW ON...

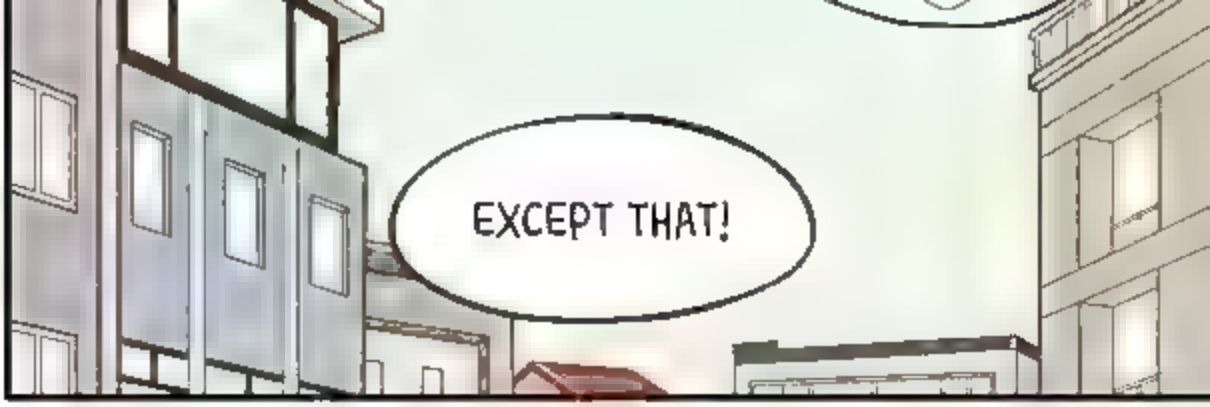
I SHALL PUT
MY FAITH IN YOU AND

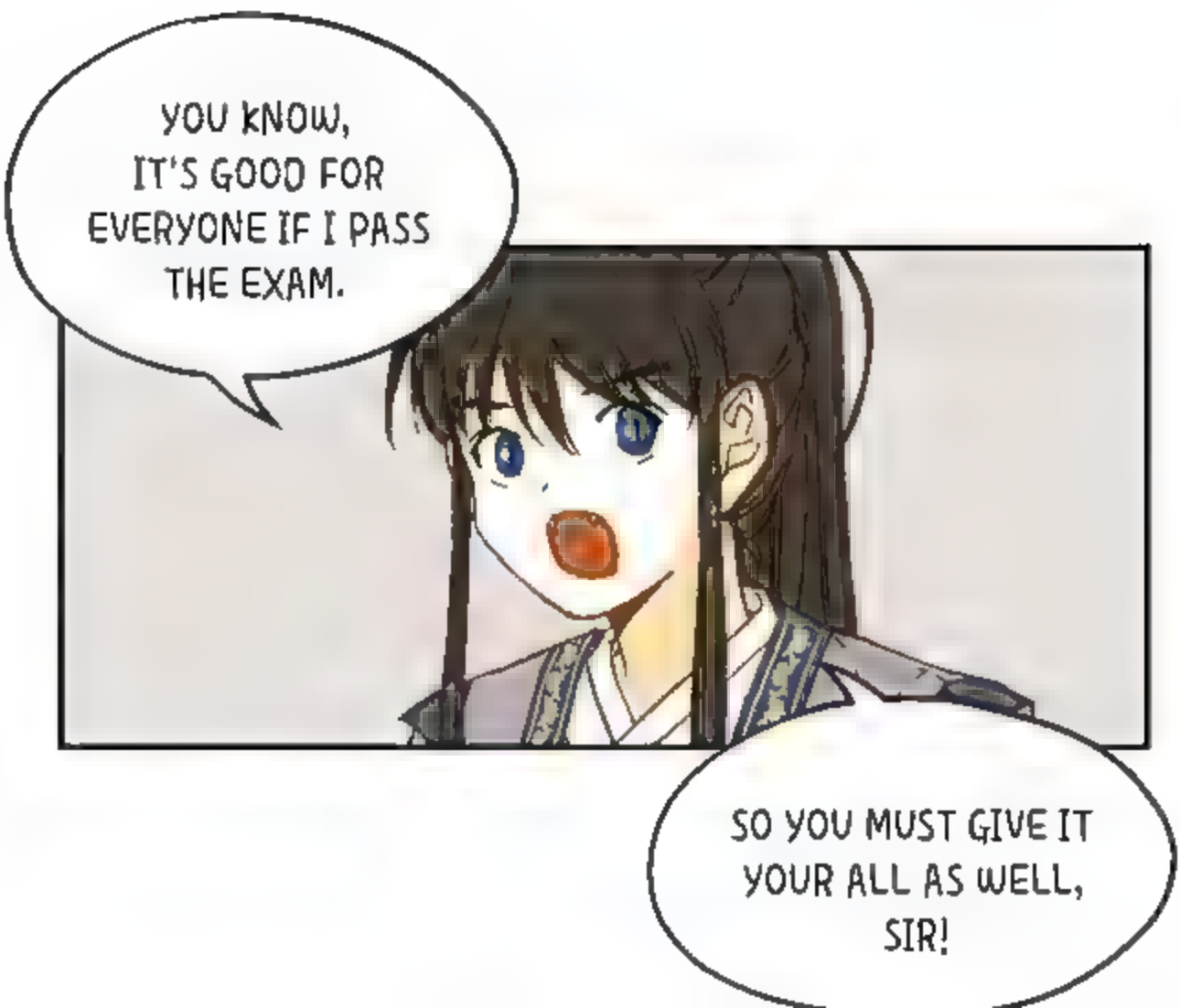
DO EVERYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO, SIR!
SO PLEASE HELP ME PASS THE EXAM!

WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME SIR?
YOU'RE MY TEACHER FROM

THIS DAY FORWARD,
SO PLEASE TREAT ME AS YOUR STUDENT.
QUICK ANSWER
SURE.


ANYTHING YOU TELL ME TO DO, I'LL DO WITH ALL MY HEART!
THEN CAN YOU MOVE OUT OF MY HOUSE?


EXCEPT THAT!


YOU KNOW, IT'S GOOD FOR EVERYONE IF I PASS THE EXAM.
SO YOU MUST GIVE IT YOUR ALL AS WELL, SIR!

SO... IT'S ONE THING FOR YOU TO TURN INTO A SNAKE, BUT ALL THAT BAD KARMA STUFF...
MISTRUST
...I FIND IT REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE.

THEN WILL YOU BELIEVE ME IF YOU FAIL ONE MORE JOB INTERVIEW?
HEHE
DOESN'T MEAN ANY HARM

YOU...
HE
HE
...YOU DAMN REPTILE...!

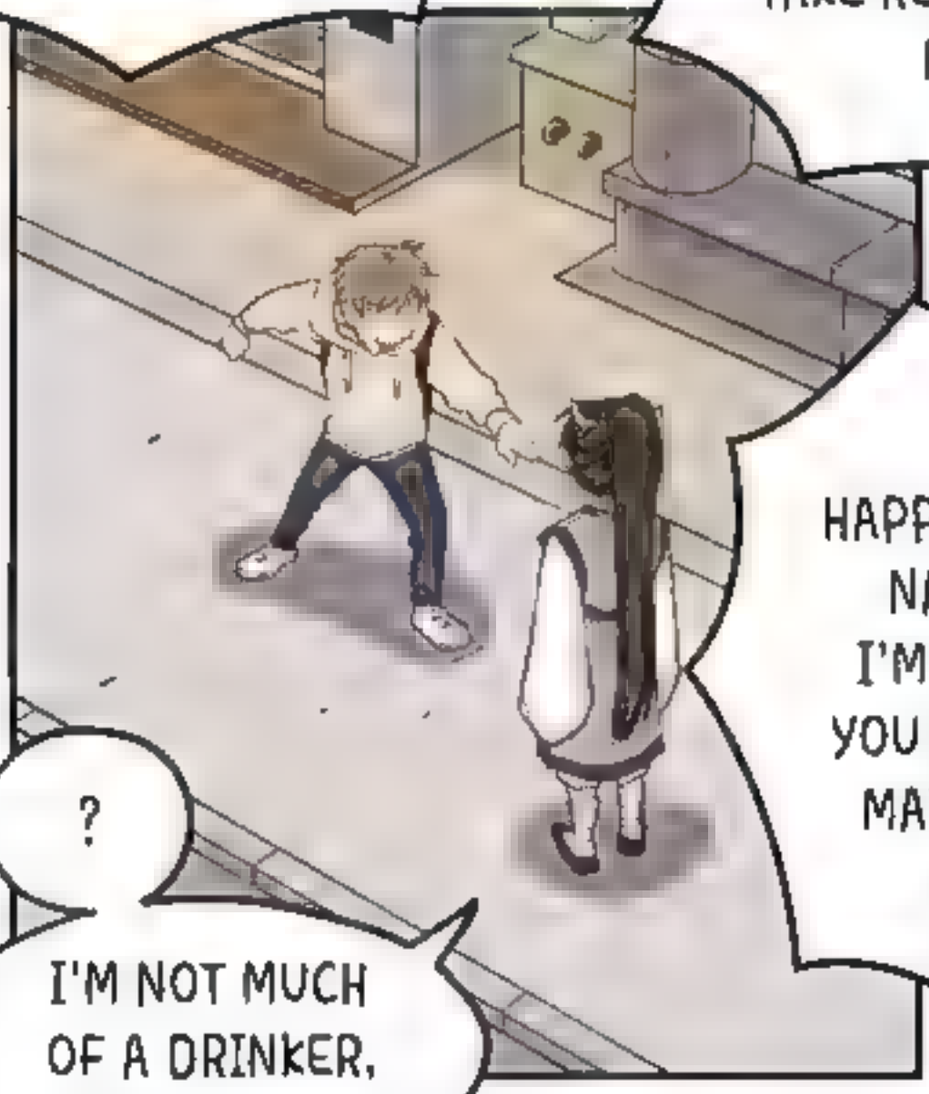
ALL RIGHT.
YOU SAID TWO MONTHS, RIGHT?

FINE,
I'LL DO IT.
TWO PEOPLE GOT PERFECT SCORES ON THEIR CSAT WITH MY HELP, AFTER ALL!
FWOOSH
WE'LL WORK OUR BUTTS OFF FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS!

AND IF SOME KIND

OF MISFORTUNE BEFALLS ME AGAIN WHEN I'M APPLYING TO JOBS NEXT YEAR...

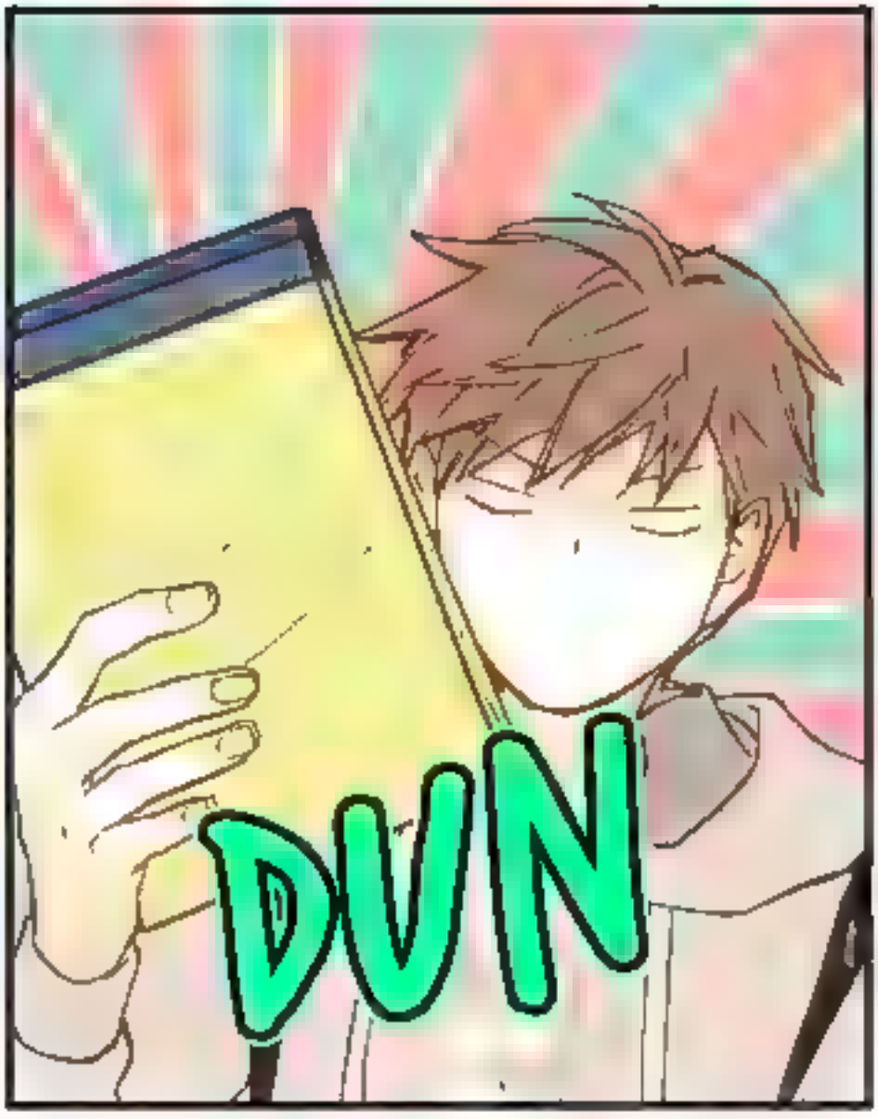
...I'LL MAKE YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT!



IF THAT HAPPENS, FORGET THE NAKDONG RIVER. I'M GOING TO DUMP YOU IN ALCOHOL AND MAKE SNAKE WINE OUT OF YOU!

?

I'M NOT MUCH OF A DRINKER, THOUGH...


DUN

DU-DUN

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
24

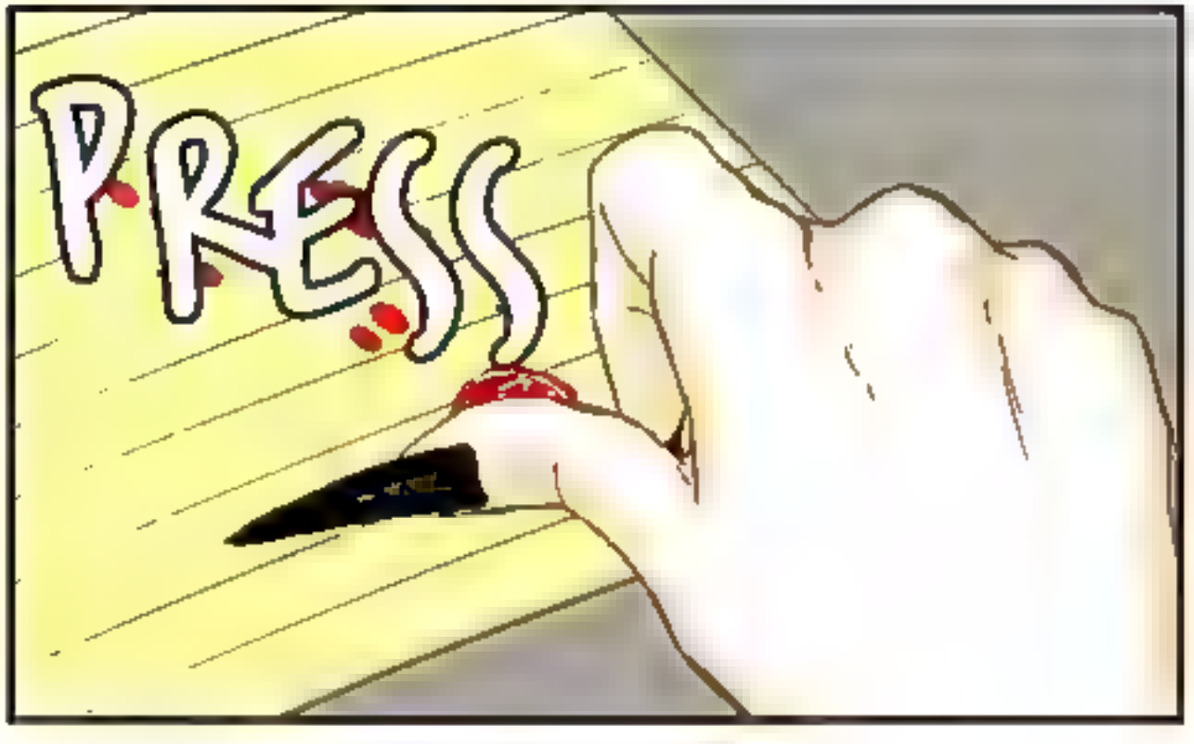
HERE!

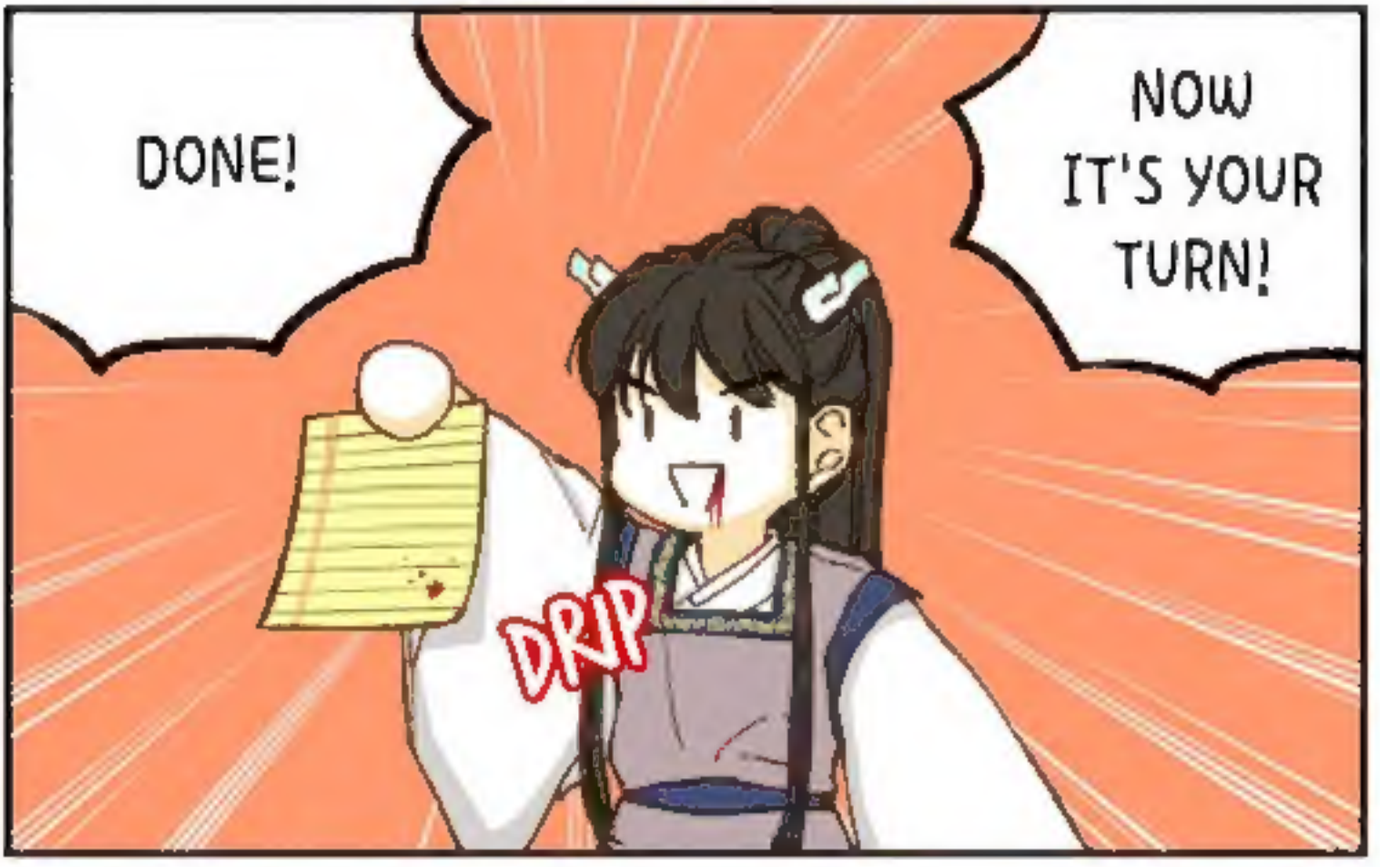
READ IT

HMM?

AND SIGN IT!
IS THIS A CONTRACT?

HUP!
RING

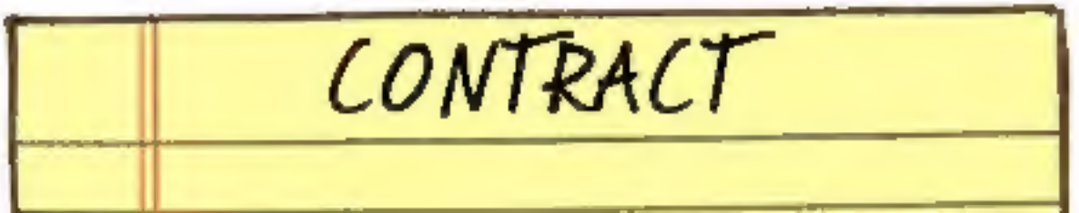

PRESS


DONE!
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!
DRIP

UH...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT...
PLOP

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE

...LET ME SEE YOUR HAND.
I'LL GET YOU A BAND-AID.
NOD
...


CONTRACT

1. THE BENEFICIARY SHALL NEVER TURN INTO A SNAKE.

2. THE BENEFICIARY SHALL NOT THREATEN THE TUTOR PHYSICALLY IN ANY WAY.

3. THE BENEFICIARY SHALL MOVE OUT AS SOON AS THE CONTRACT PERIOD IS OVER.

3-1. THE CONTRACT PERIOD SHALL END ON THE DATE OF THE BENEFICIARY'S EXAMINATION.

4. THE BENEFICIARY CANNOT HOLD THE TUTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESULTS OF THE EXAM.

5. IF THE TUTOR FAILS TO OBTAIN A JOB THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THE BENEFICIARY MUST OFFER COMPENSATION FOR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MATERIAL DAMAGES INCURRED.

TUTOR : YOUNG YOO BENEFICIARY: BARI